
Introduced by Senator Hernandez

March 13, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 24—Relative to National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 24, as introduced, Hernandez. National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week.

This measure would designate the week of April 15 to 21, 2013, as “National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week,” and would encourage the promotion of policies and programs that seek to reduce cancer disparities and improve cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and followup care for all Californians.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week
2 has been observed across the country each year since 1987 to bring
3 attention to the disparities of cancer among medically underserved
4 populations; and
5 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society is participating in
6 National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week to point out the
7 disparities in cancer burdens and to encourage public and private
8 sector commitments in helping eliminate these disparities; and
9 WHEREAS, California is the most populous and ethnically and
10 culturally diverse state in the country, and thus, is in a position to
11 provide leadership for the nation to address the reduction of the
12 incidence of cancer among all races and genders; and
13 WHEREAS, In California, disparities exist in knowledge about
14 cancer, cancer survival, and access to early detection, high-quality

1 treatment, health care coverage, and health care. Social inequities
2 also exist, including differences in occupational hazards,
3 environmental exposures to pollution and other toxins, access to
4 education, nutrition, physical activity, safe neighborhoods, healthy
5 food options, and other factors that contribute to an increased or
6 reduced risk of cancer; and

7 WHEREAS, The risk of developing and dying from cancer
8 varies considerably among different cultural populations in
9 California. The medically underserved are often diagnosed at later
10 stages, and with a higher incidence of cancers with higher
11 mortality, like lung cancer, and are more likely to receive delayed
12 health care; and

13 WHEREAS, Cancer is the leading cause of death among
14 Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders and is the
15 second leading cause of death for most other Californians; and

16 WHEREAS, In California, African American males have the
17 highest overall cancer incidence and mortality rates. African
18 American women are more likely to die of breast cancer, although
19 non-Hispanic white women are the most likely to be diagnosed
20 with the disease. African Americans have substantially higher rates
21 of cancers of the stomach, small intestine, liver, and larynx,
22 myeloma, and Kaposi's sarcoma than non-Hispanic whites. African
23 American men are at especially high risk for prostate cancer, more
24 than any other racial and ethnic group; and

25 WHEREAS, In California, lung cancer is the most common
26 cancer among Laotian and Vietnamese men, while prostate cancer
27 is the most common cancer for men in most other ethnic groups.
28 Colorectal cancer is the most common cancer among Kampuchean
29 and Korean men. Despite an overall statewide decline in colorectal
30 cancer rates from 1988–2008, incidence sharply increased among
31 Koreans and Vietnamese. Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and
32 Hispanics have substantially higher rates of liver and stomach
33 cancer than other groups. Vietnamese women have much higher
34 rates of cervical cancer than non-Hispanic white women. Asian
35 Americans have among the lowest rates of screening for breast,
36 cervical, and colorectal cancers. There remains a lack of data about
37 factors related to cancer, cancer control, and effective interventions
38 among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and

39 WHEREAS, In California, Latinos have substantially higher
40 rates of stomach and liver cancers than other Californians. Latinos

1 have higher rates of acute lymphocytic leukemia and cervical
2 cancer than non-Hispanic whites. Latinos have the highest
3 likelihood of being uninsured, which can create serious barriers
4 to screenings, early detection, and treatment. Latino women have
5 the highest risk of developing cervical cancer, significantly higher,
6 than non-Hispanic white women, African American women, Asian
7 American women and Pacific Islander women; and

8 WHEREAS, Members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and
9 transgender community are at greater risk for cancer, face specific
10 challenges accessing quality health care because of insurance
11 policies that fail to cover same-sex partners, and may hesitate to
12 access health care because of previous discrimination in health
13 care settings. Lesbians have fewer mammograms, pelvic
14 examinations, and Pap smear tests than heterosexual women. There
15 remains a lack of data about factors related to cancer, cancer
16 control, and effective interventions in the lesbian, gay, bisexual,
17 and transgender community; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares the week of April
20 15 to 21, 2013, inclusive, as “National Multicultural Cancer
21 Awareness Week,” and encourages the promotion of policies and
22 programs that seek to reduce cancer disparities and, as a result,
23 improve cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and followup
24 care for all Californians; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
26 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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29 **CORRECTIONS:**
30 **Text-Pages 2, and 3.**
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